

IN THE CLAIMS:

Pursuant to the revised amendment format, please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (currently amended) A filler device having a filler neck (23) and a closure cap (1), the closure cap (1) having an engagement segment (4), the engagement segment (4) and filler neck (23) each having complementary engagement elements (7, 8, 25, 26), which can be brought, by movement of the closure cap (1) with respect to the filler neck (23), from an initial position into a final position, a locking device (13, 14) operably associated with and preventing the closure cap (1) from falling off which generates a resistance to movement in a movement region of the closure cap (1), the movement region comprising an axial path for the closure cap (1) to the initial position, and from the initial position a circumferential path to the final position, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) is effective ~~intermediate the initial position and the final position~~ at least at a region of transition from the axial path to the circumferential path.
 2. (currently amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) is arranged in such a way that it is effective in the first third of the ~~engagement~~ circumferential path toward the final position.
 3. (currently amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 2, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) is arranged in such a way that it is effective at the beginning of the ~~engagement~~ circumferential path toward the final position.

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4. (currently amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) is arranged in such a way that it is effective in the movement region before the ~~engagement~~ circumferential path.

5. (original) The filler device as defined in Claim 4, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) is arranged in such a way that it is effective in the movement region before the initial position is reached.

6. (previously amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 4, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) is arranged in such a way that it is effective in the initial position.

Claims 7-8 (cancelled)

9. (previously amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) has a resiliently deflectable locking lug (15, 16) on one of the filler neck (23) and the closure cap (1), which is located in the movement region.

10. (original) The filler device as defined in Claim 9, characterized in that the locking lug (15, 16) is arranged on the closure cap (1).

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11. (previously amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 10, characterized in that the filler neck has an engagement projection (25, 26), and the closure cap has an engagement groove (7, 8) for engaging said engagement projection.

12. (previously amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 11, characterized in that the engagement groove (7, 8) has an axial segment and a circumferential segment.

13. (previously amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 11, characterized in that the locking lug (13, 14) is arranged at the transition from the axial path to the circumferential path, and has inclined ramps (19, 20, 21, 22) in the axial and the radial direction.

14. (previously amended) The filler device as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the filler neck (23) and the closure cap (1) have several pairs of complementary engagement elements (7, 8, 25, 26), which are arranged in such a way that the closure cap (1) can be emplaced in a corresponding number of initial positions; and that an equal number of locking devices (13, 14) is provided.

15. (currently amended) A filler device, comprising:

a filler neck having an engagement projection;

a closure cap having an engagement groove for receiving said engagement projection, said engagement groove having an axial path and a circumferential

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path, and said closure cap having a locking strut, said locking strut having an axial ramp for generating resistance when said engagement projection is inserted into said axial path, and said locking strut having a circumferential ramp for generating resistance when said engagement projection is rotated circumferentially in said circumferential path, **said locking strut being effective at least at a region of transition from said axial path to said circumferential path.**

16. (previously added) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said filler neck and said closure cap have more than one engagement projection and engagement groove, respectively.
 17. (previously added) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said closure cap further comprises an annular groove having an O-ring, said annular groove adjacent said engagement groove.
 18. (previously added) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said locking strut is radially inwardly deformable.
 19. (previously added) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said locking strut further comprises a stop ridge at an end opposite said axial and circumferential ramps, said stop ridge defining an end point of said axial path for axially inserting said closure cap.
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